

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management

Office of Communications

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

News and Information
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Unique Wild Horses Looking For Homes

CENTRAL OREGON-A number of very special wild horses will soon be up for adoption to loving homes in Central Oregon and beyond. What makes these horses so special? As wild horses, they graze in the beautiful Ochoco National Forest, one of only a very few National Forests in the United States that manage wild horse herds. The vast majority of wild horse herds make their homes in the varied desert habitats of the Bureau of Land Management.

These particular wild horses were rounded up from the Big Summit Herd Management Area (HMA) on the Ochoco National Forest southeast of Prineville. Several are black sabino (Spanish for speckled) paint horses; black or blue roan with white markings on their face and legs. The horses range in age from one to five years old. Although the Big Summit HMA Mustang tends to be around 14 hands, the younger horses should be taller at maturity with proper nutrition. Their greatest attribute is they are very people oriented. Once gentled and trained, they make great horses for kids and smaller adults. Accustomed to fending for themselves, the horses are particularly hardy. They make natural trail horses and have proven to be very adaptable and versatile once placed in their new homes.

The adoption is part of an exciting 2-day free Wild Horse Gentling Clinic and Adoption (April 3 & 4) sponsored by the Central Oregon Wild Horse Coalition and hosted by Catalyst Farms Equestrian Center of Sisters, Oregon. The event is being held in cooperation with the Ochoco National Forest and Prineville and Lakeview Bureau of Land Management. There will be eight horses up for adoption (a mixture of geldings and mares), with five horses rounded up from the Big Summit HMA and three horses rounded up from the Pokegama HMA from Lakeview BLM.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS-WILD HORSE ADOPTION

Saturday, April 3th at Catalyst Farms on Cloverdale Road

9-4 pm: *Viewing and Registration

*Gentling Demonstrations-Local Trainers Rick and Kitty Lauman

*Adopted mustangs on display-Includes horses who have been successful in a variety of equine disciplines in both the mustang show circuit and open events.

Eeyore, a Big Summit HMA adopted wild mustang who is very popular with children, will be on hand dressed in Winnie-the-Pooh costume. Eeyore loves to participate in therapy-related activities with handicapped children.

*Sharon's Chuckwagon

*Raffle prizes

4-7 pm: Slim Chance Band (Eugene)

Riders in the Dirt Band (Prineville)

And more!

Sunday, April 4th at Catalyst Farms on Cloverdale Road

9-4 pm. *Viewing and Registration

*Gentling Demonstrations

*Adopted Mustangs on Display

*Sharon's Chuckwagon

*Raffle Prizes

2 pm: *Wild Horse Adoption

Minimum bid of \$125 required. Adoption will be on a first-come, first-served basis using a silent competitive bidding process.

All animals are vaccinated to prevent a variety of equine diseases, including West Nile virus and rabies. Adopters receive complete health care records so they can begin care regimens with their own veterinarians. To qualify to adopt, an individual must be at least 18 years old, however, parents or guardians may adopt and allow younger family members to care for the animal.

Potential adopters are encouraged to fill out adoption applications and be approved in advance by local Wild Horse and Burro Program Specialist Bill Pierratt (541) 416-6720 or Prineville BLM at (541) 416-6700. Adopters must provide a shelter with at least two sides and a roof, among other requirements. Additional information and applications are available at www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov or call toll free to 1-866-4MUSTANGS.